



Chapter **24**

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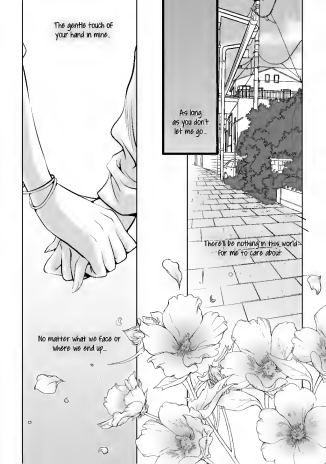
Story & Illustration
Ryōma Sato

The gentle touch of
your hand in mine.

As long
as you don't
let me go.

There's be nothing in this world
for me to care about.

No matter what we face or
where we end up.





We'll always be
together, right?

Don't let me go.
Please

You've already come into my
life and become a part of me.

It doesn't matter when
I always want to be able
to see that smile.
That brilliant smile.

The one you show
only to me



DAMN IT,
IT'S JUST MY
LUCK TO GET
IN TROUBLE
ON THE
FIRST DAY
OF SCHOOL.



HUH...

IT'S YOUR
FAULT FOR
BEING LATE!
YOU KNOW THAT
OLD LADY'S
A STICK IN
THE MUD.

HAVEN'T
READJUSTED
YOUR
SLEEPING
SCHEDULE
YET?

YOU ONLY
SLEEP IN A
SLEEPING
PILLOW.

I'm pissed
off!! I need
food to let off
some steam.
Who's with me?



Donut!

Oh, that
is in her
voice.



PHEW! DID
YOU JUST
FINISH,
TOO?

NAH! I'VE
BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU.



UH?

stomach





SEE YOU
LATER!

WAIT FOR ME,
OKAY? I HAVE
A SURPRISE
FOR YOU!



AH... OKAY.



DAMN...
YOU'VE MADE
SO MUCH
PROGRESS
SHE'S GIVING
YOU HER KEY
NOW?

EVERYTHING'S
PROGRESSING
FASTER
THAN WE
THOUGHT...
YOU'RE
FEISTY.

DID YOU
FORGET TO
FILL US IN ON
SOMETHING,
DO?

TAKOYI FROM TOKYO



HEHEHEH
I'M GONNA
TATTLE TO
YOUR MOM
THAT YOU'RE
SLEEPING
TOGETHER!

NO!!
THAT'S
CRAZY! IT'S
NOT LIKE
THAT.





UH, DID
I SAY TOO
MUCH?

OH MY GOD...
DON'T TELL ME
YOU DIDN'T
KNOW ABOUT
IT... I'M SO
SORRY...

HA...

IT'S
FINE...

A scholarship
to study
abroad?



supacah



She never told
me she applied
for one of
those...

That means
we'll have to be
apart, and then
I won't get to
see her...



Or even a
week, or even
a month.

And it won't just
be for a day or
two...

FLIP

No... It'll be two years...

Why. Didn't she say a single word to me about it?

Why... why...?

Yoo-hoo...
Did I keep you waiting long?

SWING

I brought back a bunch of food so we could celebrate!

Isn't this something extremely important...?

I have great news, you'll definitely jump when you hear it!



WHY?



.....
.....
D-DONUT...



I'M SORRY.
I READ
THROUGH
YOUR LETTER.

HA.... WELL,
I GUESS THE
SURPRISE IS
SPOILED NOW.
PJ300M
ALREADY TOLD
ME EVERYTHING.



UH... I WAS
JUST ABOUT
TO TELL
YOU...

I... I'M
SORRY.
I COULDN'T
FIND THE
RIGHT TIME
UNTIL NOW.



AHA...
NO...



THIS IS
SUPPOSED TO
BE GOOD NEWS,
ISN'T IT...?



I SHOULD BE
HAPPY FOR YOU.
AT LEAST, THAT
WOULD BE THE
RIGHT THING
TO DO.

BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHY
I DON'T FEEL
LIKE SMILING OR
LAUGHING AT ALL.
IT'S STUPID.



IT WAS
REALLY
SUDDEN...
I'M STILL
SURPRISED,
MYSELF.

IT CAME IN
THE DAY WE
CAME BACK
FROM CHONBURI.
AND... YOU'D
ALREADY
GONE HOME
BY THEN...



IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF
YOU TOLD ME
ANY SOONER
OR LATER...
YOU'RE
LEAVING,
EITHER WAY.



SO...
CONGRATULATIONS.

YOUR WISH
FINALLY CAME
TRUE.



I'M SORRY...
THAT I CAN'T
CELEBRATE
THIS SUCCESS
WITH YOU
JUST YET.



MY HEART AND
SOUL ARE ALL
TWISTED UP...
I THINK I NEED
TO BE ALONE FOR
A WHILE.

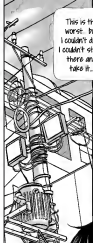
UH... P...
DONUT...



IF I'D HEARD
THE NEWS FROM
YOU AND HAD THE
CHANCE TO BE THE
FIRST PERSON TO
CONGRATULATE
YOU, THEN MAYBE
IT WOULD HAVE
GONE BETTER
THAN THIS.

EVEN IF I KNOW
FULL WELL THAT
THIS MEANS I'LL
HAVE TO BE
APART FROM
YOU.





This is the worst... but
I couldn't do it.
I couldn't stand
there and
take it...



HUUH...

Otherwise
I would've
started crying
right in front
of her.



HFF

HFF



HUUH...
D-DONUT??



SORRY FOR
COMING OVER
ALL OF THE
SUDDEN

IT'S FINE!
I DON'T
HAVE A
ROOMMATE
OR
ANYTHING!



COULD I STAY
HERE FOR A
LITTLE BIT?
I DON'T...
REALLY WANT
TO GO BACK
TO MY ROOM
RIGHT NOW.



WANT
SOMETHING
TO DRINK?

SURE,
ANYTHING'S
FINE WITH
ME. THANKS.

IT'S KINDA
FUNNY, NOW
THAT I THINK
ABOUT IT.



OUR DORMS
AREN'T EVEN
THAT FAR FROM
EACH OTHER...

BUT WE
HAVEN'T REALLY
VISITED EACH
OTHER'S ROOM
AT ALL.



WELL, YOU GO
FOR YOUR
GAMES THE
MOMENT YOU
GET HOME, SO
THAT'S NO
SURPRISE.

EVERY TIME I
MESSAGE YOU,
YOU'RE GAMING...
I STILL WONDER
WHERE YOU
FIND THE TIME
TO STUDY,
HONESTLY.

...YEAH...
I GUESS.



DID YOU
HAVE A
FIGHT...?

NO...
THERE
WAS NO
FIGHT.



I'M THE
ONE BEING
UNREASONABLE
HERE.

MAYBE I'M
JUST TOO
SCARED.



RELATIONSHIPS
HAVE THEIR
UPS AND
DOWNS.

CALM DOWN
AND TALK IT
OVER WITH
HER.



I WANT HER...
TO ONLY PAY
ATTENTION
TO ME.



IT FEELS LIKE...
THERE'S ONLY A
SMALL, THIN
STRAND
HOLDING US
TOGETHER.

NO MATTER
HOW TIGHTLY
WE'RE TIED
TOGETHER, I
CAN'T HELP BUT
BE AFRAID THAT
IT'S GOING
TO SNAP
EVENTUALLY.



BEING SELFISH
IS NORMAL
WHEN YOU
LOVE SOMEONE.

WANTING TO BE
THEIR ONLY ONE,
WANTING THEM TO
CARE ABOUT YOU
MORE THAN ANYONE
ELSE... THERE'S A
REASON THEY'RE
IMPORTANT TO
YOU, RIGHT?

I'M GLAD YOU
UNDERSTAND,
ICE...



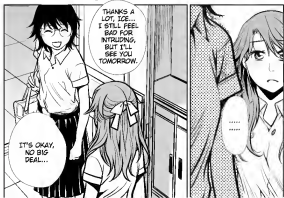
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT IS
YOU'RE UPSET
ABOUT, BUT...



??



IF YOU EVER
NEED SOMEONE
TO LISTEN, I'M
HERE FOR YOU
ANYTIME.





D-DONUT.



HM?



UH...
DO YOU...
REMEMBER
THAT DAY?



THE DAY YOU
CAME TO ME FOR
ADVICE ABOUT
CONFESSING TO
SOMEONE YOU
LIKED?



YEAH? OF
COURSE I DO...



UH...
I JUST WANTED
TO LET YOU KNOW
THAT...



HUH...!!??

I...LIKE YOU,
DONUT.





Three Musketeers

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chapter 24

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